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**The Assyrians will Leave the Middle East**

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The mass migration of a people established in the East for thousands of years will bring workers and immense spiritual wealth to the large and rich continent of Brazil.

After many months of negotiations between the Brazilian Government and representatives of the Assyrians in Syria and Lebanon, the Brazilian Government has agreed to let in ten thousand Assyrians who will settle there as farmers.

This Assyro-Brazilian agreement has put a peaceful end to the long wanderings of one of the most ancient peoples of the Middle East, whom politics has long made an exiled people, and since a nation of wanderers.

**The Assyrian Case**

Driven out of Mesopotamia in the seventh century, the Assyrians settled on the Hakhiari mountains in Turkey, where they enjoyed a large autonomy. During the war of 1914-1918, they declared war on the side of the Allies, fought and were pushed back to Iran. From there they went to Iraq. In 1933, ten thousand of them went from Iraq to Syria. In Syria, the Government treated them kindly and settled them in thirty-five villages on the banks of the Khabur. But in this section of the Jazirah, the soil is arid and rain is rare. The Assyrians remained poor or destitute. Recently a father of a family had to sell his gold teeth to buy bread for his children. Besides, their dreams of a national home in Mesopotamia vanished with the League of Nations.

In the winter of 1947, the Assyrians of Syria approached the Brazilian Government with regard to mass emigration to Brazil. The Brazilian Government refused to discuss the project until the Syrian Government approved.

On 13 September 1947, the Cabinet Council of Syrian Ministers, upon request, gave the Assyrians freedom of action and promised to furnish Syrian passports to those desiring to leave for Brazil.

**Negotiations**

Ever since then events have turned out favorably. Ninety-eight priests and tribal chiefs gave the power to negotiate emigration in the name of the Assyrians of Syria to

Mr. Malek Daniel ISMA'IL  
Mr. Malek Loko BADAWI  
Mr. Malek Leon SHIMUNAYA

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who, in turn, gave this power to Mr. Yusuf MALEK, a brilliant Assyrian publicist who has lived in Beirut since 1935.

Accompanied by Malek Daniel ISMA'IL, Yusuf MALEK went to Rio de Janeiro last June and succeeded in interesting the Brazilian Government and people in the Assyrians.

Mr. MALEK knew how to publicize the glorious history as well as the personal qualities which make the Assyrians one of the most interesting peoples of the Orient.

On 9 September, at a reception held in the honor of Mr. MALEK and his collaborators by S.A.I. Don Pedro, Mr. MALEK stated

"Countries spend fortunes to purchase or preserve antiques. We represent a very old civilization whose presence in Brazil will contribute to the treasures of this lovely country to whom God has given so many possibilities. We are agriculturists and shepherds. We are concerned with neither politics nor commerce. Under favorable circumstances, our power of production is immense."

Yusuf MALEK is in Paris today, but will arrive soon in Beirut. Malek Loko BADAWI, one of the most influential Assyrian Chiefs, told us that the majority of the nine thousand Assyrians in Syria and the one thousand in Lebanon are thinking of leaving for Brazil. BADAWI does not know if the departure of the first contingent of two thousand five hundred emigrants authorized to enter Brazil this year can be organized immediately. Mr. BADAWI also told us that the Syrian Government has always been liberal and hospitable in its relation with the Assyrians. As for his feelings of gratitude and devotion towards Brazil, Mr. BADAWI could not say much because he was choked with emotion.

L'Orient

27 October 1948

Marie PASHABEZIAN threatens to fast until she is either  
tried or released

Marie Pashabezian, who is interned at the Dakawanah Concentration Camp, has sent us a statement in which she protests against her internment and states she has only one alternative left, namely that of fasting until she is either tried or released.

The Lebanese Democratic Students in France have also sent us a letter from Paris, signed by Abd-al-Qadir 'ADRA and Ahmad MALIK, and addressed to the President of the Republic, protesting against the internment of free nationalists, particularly Marie Pashabezian, and demanding their trial or release.

al-Bayraq

29 October 1948

**ENCLOSURE**

The Matter of the False Identity Cards is a Jewish One

Here are the names of the "false Lebanese."

The Surete's investigation of the false identity card matter has revealed the following facts:

Those responsible for issuing the cards are:

Salah-al-din SHATILLA  
Da'ud Isaac KHASHI  
Jacques HANNAN  
Simon PIKOVSKY

Three of the above are Jews and the fourth is a Moslem. The counterfeiters collected seven hundred and fifty Lebanese pounds for each card. They have revealed that they were aided by officials of the Civil Government.

Seventeen false identity cards have been discovered to date in the possession of:

Raful HAZZAM  
Farid Totah HAZZAM  
Moise BAIDA  
Victoria BAIDA  
Elie BAIDA  
Fortune BAIDA  
Siti SHAMMAH  
Jacob SHAMMAH  
Moise SHAMMAH  
Lucie HALWANI  
Latife HALWANI  
Da'ud MANASHAH  
Maurice AZRUTH  
Tawfiq MAUCHUN  
Edmond SAFADIYYAH  
Yusuf SAFADIYYAH

In addition, three cards in the names of Raful SHAMMAH, at present in China, Dr. Leon ROMANOV and Mrs. ROMANOV were destroyed by the counterfeiters upon their arrest. We note that all the holders of the false cards are Jews who are for the most part of Syrian origin.

Le Jour

26 October 1948

**ENCLOSURE**

Iraqi Petroleum Company Strike

We have received the following communication from the Committee representing the personnel of the Iraqi Petroleum Company at Beirut:

"The employees and laborers of IPC held a general meeting on Tuesday, 26 October at 1530 hours and made the following decisions:

- "1. To thank the President of the Republic for the kindness he showed them;
- "2. To thank the press, the Association of Lebanese Trade Unions and general public opinion for the sympathy given to their cause;
- "3. To telegraph the Head Office of the IPC at London to pass judgment on the matter and to make the Beirut management responsible for the struggle.
- "4. To bring the matter before the Lebanese Parliament.
- "5. To bring the matter before competent authorities and to take the legal proceedings imposed upon it.
- "6. To launch a general strike of IPC personnel.

We know that the personnel claim an indemnification for being transferred from Beirut to Tripoli.

We learn that the strike of IPC personnel in Beirut actually commenced yesterday according to the terms of a circular published by the Strike Committee.

The circular asks the personnel to occupy the offices day and night, to refuse to transfer to Tripoli, and to abstain from all work.

During the last hour, it has been announced to us that the management has asked for a delay until 930 hours today to reply to the demands, "very small," which the personnel Committee finally accepted to draw up after a meeting held in the evening in the presence of two Surete Inspectors.

L'Orient

28 October 1948

**ENCLOSURE**  
Approved For Release

4 - Duplicate  
2007/03/08 : CIA-RDP83-00415R001500060010-7

Marriage of Tawfiq MATNI

We have the pleasure of announcing the marriage of Mr. Tawfiq MATNI, co-owner of Telegraph, with Miss Lola SHUKRI.

The nuptial blessings were given at the home of the Maronite Archbishop of Beirut. We extend our felicitations and our best wishes to the newlyweds.

Le Jour

27 October 1948

**ENCLOSURE**

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Smuggling

A patrol of gendarmes from the Odeissah Post arrested Khalil Mahmaud ABEUD at the moment he crossed the Lebanese-Palestinian frontier with twenty-nine oxen destined to the Zionists. He was handed over to the Military Tribunal.

Le Jour

27 October 1948

**ENCLOSURE**



AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

October 26, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on October 26, 1948.BEIRUT

Muhyiddin an-Nasuli, this paper's Chief Editor, wrote from Paris on October 21 that according to the consensus at Chaillot, the Palestine question will be discussed after two weeks from now so that the U.S. representatives may be able to determine the policy the new White House incumbent may adopt toward Palestine. An-Nasuli feels that this is quite reasonable but adds: "Whether Truman or Dewey will win, the White House will continue to uphold Bernadotte's recommendations 'because I have met Mr. Ross, the brain of the American delegation on Palestine, and asked him how America proposes to solve the Palestine problem. Mr. Ross replied directly that Bernadotte's report constitutes the pivot of the American policy.'" An-Nasuli then goes on to say that it is futile on the part of the Arabs to believe in the existence of any differences between the Americans and the British on the Palestine question, both of whom are delaying the issue not only to know the results of the U.S. presidential elections, but also to wait until the nerves of the Arabs and the Jews are calmed down after which they will impose Bernadotte's solution. An-Nasuli continues: "While we are no longer hopeful in the present UN set up, we must not lose hope in ourselves... We must introduce compulsory military service in all the Arab countries.... We must instruct our youths in the use of modern weapons because Europe and America have placed near us an enemy who believes in force and in racialism, and have sown in our soil the seeds of a new type of Nazism and Fascism which is more destructive than the Nazism of Hitler and the Fascism of Mussolini."

Two days ago the Lebanese Government forwarded to Syria the new proposals concerning import restrictions. These proposals were drawn up during the long meeting the Council of Ministers held last Saturday. The meeting was also attended by Abu Shuhla and Musa Mubarak. The proposals are shrouded with great secrecy but they have been described by a Minister representing a step forward along the path of understanding.

The Minister of Health and Public Aid has issued a decision requiring anti-smallpox ~~vaccination~~ and anti-Typhoid inoculation certificates from all travelers coming to or leaving Lebanon.

The Parliamentary Administrative and Judicial Committee met yesterday and discussed, among other things, the election bill. The Deputies deemed it advisable before examining this important bill, to agree on its broader outlines which are:

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- 1 - Not to abolish sectarianism
- 2 - To fix the number of Deputies at 66
- 3 - No women suffrage.

When the possibility of placing the elections on the basis of governorates or qadhas was examined, the Deputies registered divergent views and it was therefore decided to form a sub-committee to study this point, comprising Habib Abu Shahla, Kamal Jumblat, Ibrahim Azar, Adnan al-Jsir, Joseph Dhaw and Raf'at Qaz'un.

#### AL-HAYAT'S

editorial which is censored in nine different places wonders what the heads of the Arab countries are now doing in Amman and declares in part: "It is futile to anticipate any unified command or joint effort before removing the existing differences."

#### AL-'ANAL

complains that it has become a tradition among Syrian politicians and newsmen to blame Lebanon for their failures. As an example, the paper mentions the invectives the Syrian press has been using against Lebanon since the initiation of the present Lebano-Syrian economic negotiations. The editorial, which contains a big dose of abusive words, concludes:

"Let the Syrian press use all the words it could find in the lexicon of foul and profane language; let it vent all the poisons, germs and darkneses from its chest; and let it disturb the moon with its braying, gibbering and agitation. We will care for truth only and this truth will threaten to expose and to do away with the traditions of Damascus."

This paper again urges the Lebanese authorities to recognize the rights of the Lebanese emigres abroad, and publishes a telegram from a number of Lebanese emigres in Brazil demanding, on the occasion of the examination of the new election bill, that they be granted full rights as Lebanese nationals.

#### AL YAWM

Akram al-Khalidi, who contributes articles to this paper in a column titled "The Voice of Palestine" writes that many of those who have read his criticism of the Arab League have gained the erroneous impression that he is against the League itself. In declaring that he upholds the League as an idea and a principle, al-Khalidi asserts that he will find any one who may be tempted to lead the Arabs, their League, their unity, and their Palestine to darkness and to destruction.

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SAWT AL-AHRAR

describes Deputy George Zwain's recent speech in Parliament in which he severely criticized the administration "as a bomb thrown by a man known for his strong sympathy for the Government." In praising Deputy Zwain for his courage, the editorial feels that no reform could be introduced in Lebanon so long as the present Chamber of Deputies exists.

AD-DIYAR

devotes its editorial to the United Nations Day and declares that Lebanon has refused to celebrate this Day because all the Arabs have been disappointed with the activities of the United Nations Organization.

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

October 27, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on October 27, 1948.

BEIRUT

Muhyiddin an-Nasuli, this paper's Chief Editor, wrote today's editorial in Paris on October 22. The editorial, from which the Censor has deleted more than twelve lines, deals with the recent Jewish attacks on the Negev area and with the air raid on Tyre "to frighten the Lebanese people, to cause those wishing to participate in the UNESCO conference to think before deciding to come Beirut, or to punish the Lebanese people who are preventing the Jewish intellectuals from taking part in this conference." The editorial then goes on to say:

"The Arabs are now confronted with the most complicated problem in their history. They must either accept the fait accompli or resume the fighting under a unified command. They must resolve to fight to the last, irrespective of the penalties UNO might impose on them. We have been unfair to ourselves and have handled the Palestine question in this improvised manner which is not based on firm principles of careful analysis and foresight. O Arabs! I am not accustomed to deceive you. You must choose one of two alternatives: either eternal humiliation or eternal life. Choose well!"

This paper refers to the Amman meeting which was attended last Saturday by representatives from the Arab countries, and declares that political circles in Lebanon have observed that the Lebanese Government has not been represented in that meeting. The paper understands however, that Foreign Minister Hamid Franjiah has sent a telegram of protest in which he expressed surprise at the attitude of the Arab countries that participated in the Amman conference toward the Lebanese Government.

Amir Abdul Aziz Shihab, the Governor of the South, has threatened the Government that he will resign if it will not hasten to extend the necessary aid to the Palestinian refugees under his charge.

This paper understands that the Syrian Government has accepted Lebanon's proposals regarding the importation of certain commodities. It is expected that the economic agreement will be signed by both Governments in the very near future.

AL-HAYAT

reviews the development of the Berlin crisis and declares in part:

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"The international situation is thus going from bad to worse. The struggle between the Anglo-Saxons and the Soviets has assumed, after the Security Council's drama, a character of open challenges. There is therefore no scope for retreat. There is no way for solving the Berlin problem other than the retreat of one of the two parties or the use of force. Will the Western Allies resort to the use of arms? We do not think that the time is ripe for such a venture. But we believe that both sides will strengthen, from now on, their resistance measures and will increase their military preparedness. As preparations for war are intensified, the strong powers will proportionately push the Middle East closer to the orbit of the existing struggle. It appears that the East has recently been forced to take many steps in the direction of this orbit. Where do we stand now? The purpose of this article is to warn public opinion of the urgency of following the developments of the international struggle, and to ask the appropriate authorities in the Arab countries to open their eyes widely. They have inflicted an unprecedented calamity on us through their neglect and indifference to the Palestine question. If they continue their improvised policies, the coming war will inflict on the Arab community an interecine calamity. Therefore, we must not neglect the development of events beyond our borders."

In reporting the proceedings of yesterday's meeting of the Chamber of Deputies, this paper refers, among other things, to the speeches Deputies Abdullah al-Yafi and Khalil Abu Jawda made in connection with the Palestine question. Deputy al-Yafi said: "We all know about the conference which was attended in Amman by representatives from all the Arab countries. This conference dealt with issues bearing on the Palestine question. But what surprises and pains us at the same time is the fact that the Lebanon has not been invited to this conference, as if the Palestine question is alien to it. We are further pained because we have not seen the Lebanese Government taking any steps to safeguard the honor of Lebanon in this matter. Our absence from the meeting will create various rumors and reports. For this reason, I ask the Government why Lebanon has been so neglected." Deputy Khalil Abu Jawda demanded that the Chamber of Deputies hold a special meeting to discuss the Palestine issue, now that the present phase of the question is approaching its end whether here or in Paris. The Chamber does not know what is transpiring here and there on the subject, which is important to us and to others as well, particularly as Lebanon adjoins the fictitious state. He then added that these are very delicate matters which we must examine either in a secret or open meeting. It is absolutely not permissible to let the situation continue in this manner without knowing the dangers surrounding us and the preparations we are making.

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AL-'AMAL

ridicules the Syrian newspapers because of the way they are now preparing public opinion in Syria to accept the Franco-Syrian Monetary Agreement after they had violently attacked the Lebanon for having ratified the Franco-Lebanese Monetary Agreement.

TELAGRAPH

discusses in its editorial the plight of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and urges the Government and the people to do their utmost to help them.

This paper continues to publish telegrams addressed to the Lebanese authorities requesting them to release the rest of the internees from the concentration camps.

AL-BAYRAQ

complains that the Arab League has failed to handle the question of the Palestine refugees; that Lebanon can not support 123,000 refugees; that 90% of the reports regarding contributions to the refugee funds are fictitious; and that Lebanon is obliged to buy wheat from France while Syria is refusing to permit the export of any wheat to Lebanon. The editorial then concludes:

"The Arab League and those hiding behind its screen must remember that 40% of the Arab refugees are threatened with extinction and that Lebanon is unable to provide food and clothing for its own people and can not do anything for these miserable people, the victims of neglect and wanton policy."

The Lebanese delegation to the Arab League will leave for Cairo Friday, October 29. The delegation is composed of Foreign Minister Hamid Franjiah, Economy Minister Philip Ta'la, and Acting Foreign Office Director Muhammad Ali Hamadi. Sami al-Khuri will join the delegation in Cairo.

AL-BAYRAQ publishes the following report:

"The Iraq Petroleum Company has informed the Social Affairs Service that it is not prepared to accept the demand of its employees and workers for living quarters in Tripoli and for transportation allowances. AL-BAYRAQ can not but resent this measure. It urges the Government to remind the Company of its duty toward these employees and workers who are unable to bear these conditions."

SAWT AL-AHRAR

believes in its editorial that the revision which the Parliamentary Administrative and Judicial Committee has introduced into the Election Law will not be effected in view of the strong stand of the opposition and of the people's lack of confidence in Parliament.

Oct 28, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on October 28, 1948.

BEIRUT

Like the rest of the vernacular newspapers, this paper publishes a long resume of the memorandum Camille Shamun yesterday personally submitted to President Bishara al-Khuri. Shamun told BEIRUT's correspondent that he presented the memorandum in his own name although he felt that it embodied the broad outlines of the reforms aspired by the opposition. The paper understands however, that the Council of Ministers will meet this evening to examine Shamun's memorandum before fixing a date for Shamun's second meeting with the President.

This paper believes that the election bill will be shelved temporarily at least because Sabri Hamada, the President of the Chamber of Deputies is against it. It adds that its correspondent yesterday asked a member of the Administrative and Judicial Committee as to when the sub-committee is expected to meet. He replied that the meeting has been postponed indefinitely.

Reverend Yohanna Maron, Lebanon's permanent representative to UNESCO yesterday called on Muhammad Ali Hamada, the Acting Director of the Foreign Office and discussed with him matters relating to the holding of the UNESCO conference in Lebanon. Following this meeting, BEIRUT's correspondent asked Reverend Maron concerning the question of the participation of Jewish representatives in the UNESCO conference. The reverend replied:

"Israeli's participation in the conference will not be realized because of Lebanon's insistence on refusing such participation. But the participation of Jews representing American or European UNESCO member countries can not be prevented by Lebanon. Every country has the right to send any one to the conference without taking Lebanon's views thereon."

With regard to the rumored differences between the Lebanese and the Syrian authorities over the above matter, Reverend Maron said:

"I know that the principles of the United Nations Organization provide that we accept Jewish representatives sent by UNESCO member countries. I am not aware of the differences existing between the authorities of the two countries. But I know that the Arab League has studied this question and has decided that Jewish representatives of other countries be accepted like the rest of the representatives."

This paper writes that it previously reported that the Lebanese delegation to the Arab League session would comprise Hamid Franjiah, Foreign Minister; Philip Tagla, Minister of National Economy; and Muhammad Ali Hamada, Acting Foreign Office Director. But the newspaper

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correspondent now reports that the Government has changed its mind and has decided to delegate the Foreign Minister only who will be joined in Egypt by Sami al-Khuri, the Lebanese Minister there. The Government wants to limit the Lebanese delegation this time because of the necessity of keeping the Minister of Economics in Lebanon due to the present Lebano-Syrian economic talks, and of keeping the Acting Foreign Office Director here owing to the absence of Fu'ad Annun in Paris. The Foreign Minister will fly to Cairo tomorrow (Friday).

#### AL-HAYAT

urges the Lebanese people, particularly the rich, to contribute funds for strengthening the Lebanese Army and declares: "We see mighty buildings being put up in Beirut, on which the owners are spending money lavishly, while they refuse to give one cent toward strengthening the Army. The day might come when they will regret their indifference... Indeed, do not think that the Palestine battle is over. So long as there will be Zionists in Palestine, we will not know the taste of peace, even if the Security Council would take one million decisions and impose one thousand truces."

This paper's Political Correspondent reports:

"A number of newspapers yesterday reported that the Lebanese Government had wired to Amman protesting against the Arab states because they failed to invite it to the meeting which was held there last Saturday. Official circles yesterday denied this report and stated that the event in Amman was not a general meeting of the Arab states, but a special meeting at which certain countries discussed specific issues which were the subject of differences and disputes. These states are Egypt, Transjordan, Iraq and Syria. The Lebanese Government had no direct relation with the meeting and there was no need for it to attend it. Moreover, the meeting was not held at the instance of the Arab League or upon any official request from any specific country. Therefore there is no specific party to which a protest could be made - if there was any justification for such a protest. The Acting Prime Minister commented on this saying: 'We are not angry. We are interested in the agreement of the states that attended the meeting in question. This will please and satisfy us, whether we take part in the meeting or not.'"

#### AL-'AMAL'S

editorial is full of sarcasm at ~~Wahid~~ al-Hariri and the Syrian press in connection with Syria's reported approval of the Franco-Syrian Monetary Agreement. The editorial quotes some of the invectives the Syrian press used in the recent past against Lebanon, France and the Franco-Lebanese Monetary Agreement.



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This paper publishes verbatim the 33-page reform memorandum Camille Shamun yesterday submitted to President Bishara al-Khuri. The paper headlines the memorandum, which occupies more than two and a half of its pages, as follows:

"The reform memorandum submitted yesterday to President describes the unfortunate condition in which the country is floundering and the corrupt administrative, fiscal and economic systems, and the methods of improving them. The judiciary and the officials are subjected to pressure and influence. Public security is violated, liberty suppressed and scandals occur daily. ~~Recklessness~~ The only medicine is the dissolution of Parliament and the revival of confidence in the hearts of the people."

#### TELAGRAPH

reports a statement which Riadh as-Solh has made to its correspondent at UNO in connection with Truman's and Dewey's "competition to win the friendship of the Jews in the election campaign". As-Solh said that he deeply regretted the "intervention of American statesmen in the Palestine question in this manner. Mr. Truman has particularly been interfering in this matter in order to win the greatest number of votes in the American elections. The Americans have the right to adopt any method they chose, but we have the right to say that no power can turn the Arabs from their basic aims, that Palestine is an Arab country and that the Arabs will alone protect it and solve its problem to the exclusion of the American statesmen."

This paper has received letters from "certain elements resenting Jewish participation in the UNESCO conference and threatening to create incidents against this idea."

Five hundred persons from Tripoli have addressed an appeal to President Bishara al-Khuri in which they condemn the movement for the formation of an Oriental Bloc "which aims at binding our countries to the wheel of Anglo-American imperialism and at turning them into bases for their armies which will disintegrate the Arab peoples, suppress their national movements and strengthen the imperialist nightmare..."

TELAGRAPH also publishes a telegram sent from the internees at the Ba'albak concentration camp appealing to President Bishara al-Khuri to release them immediately.

#### AL-ITTIHAD AL-LUBNANI

reports that the Iraq Petroleum Company's employees decided at a meeting held on October 26, 1945 to go on strike because the Company has refused to grant them compensations to allow them to move to Tripoli.

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

October 30, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on October 30, 1948.

BEIRUT

Muhyiddin an-Nasuli writes from Paris that after forty days of attendance at Chaillot, he can say that the United Nations Organization has not adopted a single decisive measure. He then refers with bitterness to the intoxication of the Jews with their successes in Palestine and complains that the "Arabs are lost at Chaillot, in spite of all their efforts. They are deeply worried about the progress of events in Palestine." Referring to Truman's and Dewey's competition to win the Jews over to their side "while UN activities are paralyzed awaiting the results of the American elections", AN-Nasuli declares in part:

"We the Arabs in Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Transjordan are not working earnestly, despite the fact that our leaders here, particularly the Lebanese leaders and Prime Minister, are working day and night for Palestine, so much so that a newspaper like LE MONDE, which is semi-official, carried today an article which we can say is more pro-Arab than pro-Jewish. Where is the co-ordination which must reign the efforts ~~xxxx~~ of our leaders here? Where are the activities of our armies on the various fronts?"

The Lebanese Government wired Fu'ad Ammun, the Foreign Office Director and member of the Lebanese delegation to UN in Paris, seeking his views on his appointment as Lebanon's permanent representative at UN. Fu'ad Ammun has not yet answered the telegram in question.

AL-AMAL

states in its editorial that President Bishara al-Khuri is more acquainted with the problems raised in Camille Shamun's "comprehensive" reform memorandum than any other person in Lebanon. The editorial, which praises the President for his deep and accurate understanding of Lebanon and its problems, hopes that no time will be lost in introducing the reforms which have been urged by the whole people, headed by the dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies.

This paper writes in connection with reports regarding the holding of a conference to include Arab kings and presidents, that a high official source has denied this report and said "the Lebanese Government has no knowledge of this conference."

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AL NAHAR

Camille Shamun has visited Mr. Pinkerton, the American Minister Plenipotentiary, and stayed about two hours with him.

This paper understands that Camille Shamun intends to inquire of the Government concerning the subject of the all-Palestine Government: the circumstances which attended its formation, its recognition, the change in the Arab League's attitude toward it, the reason for this change, and Lebanon's stand thereon.

AL-RUWWAD

criticizes the Secretary General of the Arab League "for the great blunder the League ~~has~~ committed when it created the Ghaza Government at a moment of wantonness and improvisation, and made it a new burden on the shoulders of the Arab countries that are almost collapsing under their heavy calamities." The editorial then refers to the League's advice to the Arab governments to stop maintaining formal relations with the Ghaza Government and takes this occasion to censure the Secretary General for his weak and ineffective direction of the League and to state that the time is now ripe for removing him and for injecting the League with new blood.

SAWT AL AHHAR

demands that the 168,000 Lebanese emigres who have elected to stick to their Lebanese citizenship must enjoy full parliamentary representation, and complains that the figure 66 which has been fixed by the new election bill as representing the total number of Lebanese deputies is arbitrary. The editorial then goes on to say that the number of deputies is ordinarily determined according to the number of the population and that even the Lebanese law provides one deputy for each 20,000 souls. What principle, the editorial asks, has been followed in reaching the figure 66?

TRANSJORDANIAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

October 31, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on October 31, 1948.

BEIRUT

In a despatch sent from Paris on October 26, Muhyiddin an-Nasuli criticizes Russia for its frequent use and abuse of the veto right "which has been rarely applied by the other powers."

The Transjordan Legation in Lebanon issued the following communique yesterday:

"The Royal Transjordan Legation in Beirut regrets the publication by KUL SHAI' No. 84 dated October 27, 1948 of two false reports which it attributes to its Cairo correspondent. The first report, which is published on the paper's front page stated that an attempt had been made on the life of His Majesty King Abdullah and that a Minister's son had been arrested as a result of that attempt. The second report declared that a certain Arab country had expressed its inability to attend the Arab League session and that Naqrashi Pasha's visit to Amman was connected with that matter. It is understood from this fabricated report that the country in question is the Hashimite Kingdom. The Legation announces that the two reports are absolutely unfounded and that the Lebanese correspondents in Amman are better acquainted than others with the falsehoods of the alleged correspondent. The Legation wishes that the Arabic press investigate the truth and seek public interests in reporting the news."

AL-HAYAT

continues to urge the Arab peoples to awake and to struggle for their cause. After complaining of the censorship the editorial declares in part:

"These are the Egyptian newspapers which are full of reproaches and criticisms against the other Arab armies which ~~not~~ gone on the offensive to assist the Egyptian army. (We hope the censor would not delete this paragraph so long as he has permitted the entry of the issues of these papers). We heard the same tune in the recent past in Amman because the Egyptians and the Iraqis failed to help the Transjordanians in Jerusalem. The same tragedy is being repeated today in Galilee. Is it possible for public opinion to continue to be ignorant of all this? Our word carries with it a warning. A warning of the coming awakening. How terrible the awakening would be if it would come under the pressure of calamities? AL HAYAT will continue to send one cry following the other until our voice dies away or truth prevails. If AL-HAYAT was the only source for news, it would

not have resented the censor's treatment. But the Egyptian newspapers, which circulate freely in our markets, carry full details and comments without deletions. Moreover, the friend and enemy broadcasting stations are sending all kinds of news across the ether. Therefore, if they let us reveal the truth, we would serve rather than harm our cause. Whatever the case may be, we prefer to have the readers read the word 'censor' and the blank space rather than deceive them."

#### AL-'AMAL

maintains in its editorial that any election legislation which fails to satisfy the Lebanese emigres and to include them in parliamentary representation will not be regarded as a true and effective law. The editorial, which repeats its arguments concerning the relations of the emigres with their motherland and their contributions toward its welfare, declares that the time has now arrived whereby the responsible authorities should reveal their intentions and say "either the emigres are from and for us, and this would be in accordance with the law of nature, blood and honor; or they are not from and for us, and this would be greatest sin, the greatest fraud and the greatest eccentricity."

#### TELAGRAPH

calls upon the Arabs to unite in order to save Palestine from Zionist imperialism by force.

This paper publishes an appeal which fifty men and women from Tyre have addressed to the Minister of Interior: 1 - protesting against the Oriental Bloc; 2 - against the activities of the Gendarme in Zahla "who are terrorizing the inhabitants"; 3 - against the detainment of nationalists in concentration camps; and 4 - against the imprisonment of Marie Pasha.

The paper also reports that a large delegation from Jebail has called on the Acting Prime Minister and protested against the detainment of journalist Yusuf Khattar al-Hilo, his comrades and Marie Pasha. The delegation then presented an appeal signed by more than 300 persons demanding the release of all the internees so that they might be free to fight the Oriental Bloc and other imperialistic projects.

#### SAWT AL-AHRAR

declares that election legislation in other countries does not specify the number of deputies but define the ~~xxxx~~ average number of people to be represented by one deputy. Thus, the editorial maintains, the limitation of the number of deputies in the Lebanese election bill is not legal because it indicates that it is based on political bargains "and every country that adopts such bargains will not live long." The editorial then dwells on the subject of the emigres and demands that the Government issue a statement declaring whether those emigres who still hold Lebanese citizenship should enjoy full political rights or not.

AL-BAYRAQ

praises Camille Shamun and states that his memorandum to President Bishara al-Khuri has been received with satisfaction by the Lebanese people. While the editorial does not feel that it is necessary to repeat the points raised in the memorandum, it wishes to state that if Shamun has neglected to deal with certain foreign issues, such as the Palestine question and the rights of the emigres, his views on these two issues are well-known. The Palestine question has no better advocate than Camille Shamun who also urges that equal treatment be accorded to the residents and the emigres as far as rights and duties are concerned.



Approved For Release 2007/03/08 : CIA-RDP83-00415R001500060010-7

# AMERICAN LEGATION

★ DAMASCUS ★

## Daily Review of the Syrian Press

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PRESS DIGEST No. 200, WEDNESDAY, OCT. 20, 1948.

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### NEWSPAPERS REVIEWED:

Alef Ba', Al Fayha', Barada, Al Alam, Al Kifah, Al Ibtisam, Al Qabas, Al Balad, Al Akhbar, Ash-Shabab, Barq-Ash-Shimal, and Ad-Duha.

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### NEWS OF ECONOMIC NATURE

#### SYRO-LEBANESE TALKS:

Alef Ba': Mikha'il Ilion, the Minister of National Economy, invited yesterday a group of businessmen and economists to deliberate with him on the economic situation of the country. The following persons met the Minister in the presence of Fayez Dalati, director of Economics department: Musallam Siyufi, Head of Chamber of Commerce, Munayn Siynawi, Haj Sami Sayem-al-Dahr, 'Arif Lahhan, Abd-al-Hamid Diyab, Abd-al-Hadi Rabbat, and Dr. Ahmad Samman. The meeting lasted for two hours, in which the guests discussed the import and export policy of the country and were informed in detail of the results of the talks with the Lebanese Government especially the latter's policy of import and its attitude towards the Syrian policy.

The businessmen then expressed their views on the subject, and agreed unanimously on the necessity of protecting Syria's economy by not allowing Lebanese interference in Syria's

Approved For Release 2007/03/08 : CIA-RDP83-00415R001500060010-7

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policy, and suggested some measures to be adopted for its protection.

Musa Mubarak accompanied by officials of the Lebanese Ministry of National Economy arrived yesterday in Damascus and called on the Syrian ministers of Finance, National Economy, and Justice in the office of the Council of Common Interests and resumed talks of Lebanon's latest attitude towards the final agreement.

Alif ba's correspondent learnt from appropriate sources that talks between the two governments have taken a new trend following the revision by Lebanon of its old position, and it is probable that a joint meeting will be convened on Thursday.

Al Fayha': Almost all the morning papers in Beirut reported the arrival of Husayn al 'Uwayni in Damascus and his private talk with President Qawwatli. Riyan al-Solh's cable from Beirut advising the continuation of the talks and the maintenance of the relations between the two countries was believably the topic of the conversation between the Lebanese Minister of Finance and President Qawwatli. Nabhi al-Hariri, Nikha'il Ilian, and Sa'id al-Ghazzi joined the meeting and listened to the advice of the President to do all they could to maintain the economic relations between the two countries.

## M I S C E L L A N E O U S

### EMBASSLEMENT & BLACKMAILING:

Al Alam: In consequence to the editorial published in one of the previous issues (see Pr.Dig.198/2), Al 'Alam to-day writes:

An official department started investigation in the subject of bribery of income tax controllers. This department has actually contacted our office and requested more details about the subject. In this occasion we would like to mention that the investigation which will be carried out will not lead to any positive result, unless necessary precautions are taken to keep away all threats that may be directed against the merchants concerned.

We have mentioned in our previous article on this subject that the merchant in question requested us not to publish his story fearing that he might become the victim of a further shock directed against him by the controller.

Now, why....



Now, why did he lodge this request? It is because he has witnessed with his own eyes that no investigation started against a government official was given fair judgment, for all judgments given in such cases were always in favor of the official.

The paper then questions: Where is this protection of the public provided by Government from those officials who have already established a big party in most departments with a view of having things accomplished to their entire satisfaction and in their own interests, with full confidence that the judgment at the end will be favorable to them?

#### TAPLINE COMPANY

Alef Ba': An official source has denied the news reported by the Lebanese papers to the effect that talks between the Syrian Government and the Tapline Company have been resumed. The source added that Syria was still adhering to its well-known attitude towards this Company.

#### PETROLEUM CRISIS ENDED

Alef Ba': Anis Shabet, Director of Communications, has told our reporter that the fuel crisis has been solved, and that the companies would hand over to the Government the quantities of fuel necessary for local consumption.

Our correspondent says that the Post Office cars as well as most industrial factories and electric companies were on the way of suspending their work if the crisis was not solved.

#### SYRIAN EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION

Alef Ba': A ministerial decision was issued appointing the following persons as members in the Syrian delegation to the UNESCO and to the Arab League Educational Commission:

Dr. Husni Sabah, Dean of the Syrian University,  
Dr. Sami Midani, Dean of Faculty of Law,  
Shafiq Jabri, Dean of Faculty of Literature,  
Khalil Mardam Bey, Secretary of the Arab Academy,  
Amir Ja'far, Director of Antiquities,  
Dr. Khalil Ayyad, Professor, School of Literature,  
Dr. Anwar Hatim, Director of Prime Ministry  
Jamal al-Farra, Acting Secretary General of Ministry of P. I.,  
Ahmad al-Fatih, member of the Educational Board, and  
Jalal Zurayq, inspector at the Ministry of Public Inst.

#### EVACUATION OF TAJHIZ

Alif Ba': The Military authorities have evacuated the building of the First Tajhiz, and the Ministry of Public Instruction has started repairs in preparation for the resumption of studies therein.

#### REINFORCEMENT OF THE SYRIAN ARMY

Al Kifah: Within a black frame and in conspicuous types, Al Kifah quotes a very reliable source, who has the lead in directing the Syrian ship, that the present compulsory service law will help the formation of a Syrian Army of 100,000 strength within the coming two ~~xxxxx~~ years.

The same source is quoted as saying that Syria's potentialities are sufficient to maintain such an army and that the nature of the present world and the means of the International organizations compel Syria to take such an action.

#### PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO 'IRAQ

Barada: Prime Minister Jamil Mardam Bey stated to our reporter that President Quwwatli will leave for 'Iraq on Sunday, October 24, 1948, for four or five days visit. The Prime Minister added that this visit will have a great effect in cementing the friendly and brotherly relations between the two countries.

Al Balad: It is learned from Baghdad that during his visit to 'Iraq, the President of the Syrian Republic will negotiate with 'Iraq the conclusion of an agreement similar to that reached between 'Iraq and Egypt. The agreement is intended to cement the brotherly relations between the two countries.

#### SHORTAGE OF WHEAT IN MIRA

Al 'Alam: The purchase of MIRA this season reached only 10 thousand tons, whereas it was estimated at 350 thousand. The paper believes that the deficiency is caused from the smuggling of wheat to the neighboring countries.

#### KING 'ABDALLAH CRITICIZED

Al Fayha': This paper published today a full translation of Herbert Roosevelt's article in Pageant Magazine criticising King 'Abdallah of Transjordan.

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USUAL PRESS CRITICISMS:

Al Qabas: Quoting first a speech by the Lebanese President of the Republic to the effect that Lebanon would not give up its foreign trade and import policy, Editor Rayis writes in part:

We present our gratitude and respects to the President of the Republic who has spared us and our Government the trouble to resume the talks on a subject which in the Lebanese viewpoint is closed. May be the President wanted to say what his ministers or negotiators could not utter in Bhandoun, and Shtaura that there is not use in arguing and discussing what the Syrian state and population are proposing to restrict imports in order to protect the domestic agricultural and industrial productions.

The Syrian nation expects the strong and determinant person (Quwwatli) to say 'My duty is to look into the interests of Syria first' exactly as the Lebanese President said.

Four million Syrians attentively listen to hear these words. When will they be uttered?...

The paper then shifts on its second page to criticize Wahbi al Hariri, the Syrian Minister of Finance and accuses him of talking too much without any effective action. It writes in part:

Yes, the Minister is a first class man and not talkative. He worked a lot and proved efficient but in his private businesses and commercial interests. He filled the country with goods and showed his genius in commercial deeds but only for his private interests here, in Turkey, and everywhere.

A SUSPECTED AMERICAN ACTIVITY:

Al Akhbar of October 9 (received today) published the following:

Our reporter learns that an American residing in Ain Kirsh (Rue Baghdad) is projecting films to the inhabitants in his house about wars, its bad consequences and its miseries. Does this man intend to frustrate the determination of the population for the resumption of fighting in Palestine?... the paper addresses this inquiry to the Security Department.

MIDDLE EAST AS SEEN BY AN AMERICAN:

Alif Ba; translated two articles from the News Week written  
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by the well-known American newspaperman, Ernest Lindly, following his 21,000 mile trip in the Near and Middle Eastern countries as guest of Admiral Connally, commander-in-chief of the American Navy in the Mediterranean and Eastern Atlantic under the title: DREAMS OF AMERICAN DOMINATION. CRYTALIZE IN THE NEAR EAST. A 'FRIENDLY' RESEARCH TRIP BY COMMANDER OF AMERICAN NAVY.

## P A L E S T I N E

### SYRIA SUPPLIES JERUSALEM WITH WHEAT:

Alef Ba': The Committee of Jerusalem Merchants has asked the Syrian Council of Ministers to sell it 1,000 tons of wheat at LP.50 a ton, 20 tons of starch, and 50 tons of burghol for supplying the inhabitants of the Holy City and of the neighboring Arab villages. The Council of Ministers will consider this request in its forthcoming meeting, and will approve it in view of the serious condition of the Arab inhabitants in that district.

### UN AIDS TO REFUGEES:

Alef Ba': The Supreme Council of Refugees has decided to ask the UN to contribute one and a half million Sterling a month for the relief of the Palestine refugees. The Arab states will in turn contribute 750,000 Pounds, the sum which would be divided among the Arab states in proportion of their respective incomes and the number of refugees they are sheltering.

### PRIME MINISTER IN THE FRONT:

Alef Ba': Mardam Bey visited yesterday the Syrian Front in Palestine, and following the termination of office hours at the Ministry of Defence, he called on the President to report to him on the military situation as it stood.

Our correspondent learnt that leaves for officers and soldiers have been cancelled, and that quick preparations are being taken to repel any attack that may be launched by the Jewish forces.

### ARAB DELEGATIONS TO UN URGE RESUMPTION OF FIGHTING:

Alef Ba' reproduced a cable received by Al Diyar from its owner in Paris:

(Pr.Dig.200/7)

"The Security Council this morning accepted Bunch's proposals concerning cessation of fire as amended by Faris al-Khuri. The Arab delegations have met in the afternoon and decided to advise their governments to have a firm stand in all fronts and not to leave Egypt alone to tolerate the constant breach of the truce by the Jews. Bunch will officially be notified of the Arab's intention to resume fighting in all fronts unless the Jews return to their previous positions in the Negev.

Amir 'Adil Arslan, member of Syrian delegation to UN, angry that there was no Arab reaction to Jewish truce violations, resigned from membership in the delegation. Anglo-American Press has invited Riyad Bey al-Dolh to a luncheon in which he will detail to them the Arab final attitude towards the Palestine question.

#### LOAN FOR PALESTINE GOVERNMENT REQUESTED:

Barada: Jamal al-Husayni, Minister of Foreign Affairs of all Palestine, and Mr. Abikarious, the Finance Minister, were received in Cairo by Secretary General of Arab League Azzam Pasha.

Az-Zaman paper in Cairo quotes 'Awni Abd-al-Hadi as saying that the all Palestine Government cannot be considered a 'civil Government' unless it possesses a budget of 50 million Sterling in order to be able to carry out its duties. "We are, therefore, awaiting the contribution of the Arab Gov'ts to this Government." he stated.

'Awni Abd-al-Hadi is further quoted as saying: "I shall not return to Gaza before ascertaining of the preparedness of the Arab States to make a loan to Palestine Government."

#### UNIFICATION OF ARMY COMMANDS:

Al Balad: Rumors among well-informed circles have it that the AL Political Committee will possibly hold a meeting shortly to discuss the question of Palestine from all its angles and study the unification of the Arab Army Commands in order to resume the fighting should the Jews continue with their violations of the truce and their continuous attacks on the Arabs in Palestine.

#### STATEMENT BY AMIR ADIL ARSLAN:

Al Insha': Amir Adil Arslan, Minister of Social Affairs and Hygiene, and member of the Syrian Delegation to UN, made the

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following statement to Telegraph paper's reporter in Paris.

It is evident that the Secretariat of UN is supporting the Jews. The Palestine question placed the 11th on the agenda but the UN Secretariat advanced it to the 3rd. "I asked the Arab delegates to oppose but was replied that we would undoubtedly fail."

It is also evident that the British fear the results of the American elections and the possible shift in the American foreign policy. When asked if the American policy toward the question of Palestine would be changed after the election, a Republican said: May be...

Italy is the most important camps of the Jewish activities, said the Amir.

When asked if the Arabs would benefit from disputes of big powers, the Amir replied in affirmative but conditioned that the Arab delegates must have the full authority to represent their governments and negotiate in their names. The Arabs should have agreed on this point before the opening of the UN General Assembly Session.

NEWS IN HEADLINES:

Barada: SECURITY COUNCIL REFUTES JEWISH CLAIMS AND PROVES THEIR CRIMES.

RUSSIA FORMS A KURDISH GOV'T IN SOVIET ARMENIA TO Enflame The Revolution In The Middle East.

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F.GH/JSS/E.S.



Approved For Release 2007/03/08 : CIA-RDP83-00415R001500060010-7

# AMERICAN LEGATION

★ DAMASCUS ★

## Daily Review of the Syrian Press

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RESTRICTED - (For Staff Use Only.)

PRESS DIGEST No. 201, THURSDAY OCTOBER 21, 1948.

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### NEWSPAPERS REVIEWED:

Alef Ba', An Nasr, Al Fayha', Barada, Al Alam, Al Insha',  
Al Qabas, Al Aiyam, Al Kifah, Barq Ash-Shimal, Ad-Duha,  
Ash-Shabab.

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### P A L E S T I N E

#### AZZAM PASHA ADDRESSES THE PRESS:

An Nasr: Azzam Pasha, the Secretary General of the Arab League, told the press yesterday afternoon that despite all Jewish attack by land, sea and air in the seven days battle against the Egyptian forces, the Jews could not attain the aims for which they had violated the truce and launched all their forces.

Azzam Pasha further stated that this situation and the Jewish refusal to comply with the Security Council's order to cease fire would not last long, and that the Arab States would participate in the fighting.

When asked if he means that all the Arab states would resume fighting on all fronts, Azzam Pasha said: There is no more justification for patience.

In reply...

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In reply to another question if the Arabs possess the arms and equipment to beat the Jews Azzam Pasha said: We have enough to conquer the Jews and realize the victory with God's will.

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY LOST!.. Editorial:

An Nasr: Editor Wadiah Sidawi comments on the recent Security Council's order of cease fire and writes in part:

Instead of availing themselves of the golden opportunity which the Zionists had created and settle the question of Palestine with means certainly the only ones to liberate the Holy lands, namely by force, and instead of resuming the victorious fight which they had started on May 15, the representatives of the Arab countries in UN have resorted to the maintenance of the truce which the Jews had violated. We have not heard any of them lodging a request to the Security to respect its resolutions which clearly stipulated that it will resort to the imposition of economic and military sanctions upon the part that violates the truce.

A DISHONORABLE DECISION AND NOBLE RESIGNATION?: Editorial

Al Aiyam: Under the above heading Editor Nasuh babil writes in part:

The Security Council's order of cease fire in Negev is another proof of the partiality of the SC with Jewish Capitalism. This order permits the Jewish convoys to proceed to Negev Settlements on condition they submit to inspection!

This decision has realized the demands of the Jews, those who had violated the truce and attacked the Egyptians only when encountering the difficulty of contacting their settlements to supply them under the screen of foodstuffs with arms, arms and equipment, thus exposing the Arab inhabitants of the district to danger.

If the Security Council reasons that these convoys would be subject to the Egyptian control, why not permit the Arabs to send similar convoys to areas occupied by the Jews in Jaffa, Haifa, Safad, Lydda, and Ramleh?...

If the resignation of Adil Arslan from the membership of the Syrian Delegation to UN General Assembly, as reported by the Damascus and Beirut papers is confirmed, we describe it as a noble act and a proof that the Arab nations are no

more...



(Pr.Dig.201/3)

more content with this lenient policy adopted by the Arab states toward the international conspiracies. It is preferable for the Arabs to either live together in Palestine freely or die all honestly.

REPORTS ARE USELESS! LOOK FOR OTHER MEANS-REFUGEES:

An Nasr: Accompanied with Isma'il Muhammad, delegate of the UN Refugees Commission in Beirut, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Hygiene inspected the Refugee's condition in region of Palestine.

Immediately after his return the Secretary reported to the President.

The 250 thousand refugees in this region are threatened with devastation owing to the lack of aids, the Secretary General stated to our reporter. The latest wave of frost caused the death of 400 children. The rest are in miserable conditions.

The Secretary further added that the International relief aids did not reach the refugees and that the condensed milk assigned to them is not sufficient. The quantity of meat and sugar which arrived at the Port of Beirut is insufficient for their subsistence. The ration of 10 grams of meat and two grams of sugar per person per day would not be sufficient, he concluded.

LEAVE FOR OFFICERS CANCELLED:

Al Alam: All leaves for officers and other ranks have been cancelled and those on leave have been ordered to join units. Some Iraqi officers on visit in Damascus have also received orders to report to their units immediately.

SYRIA PROPOSES AMENDMENT OF "ANNEX ON PALESTINE"?

Al Alam: Our reporter learns that Syria will propose in the forthcoming session of the Arab League the amendment of the Annex on Palestine in the Arab League Charter which stipulated that "the States signatory to the Pact of the Arab League consider that in view of Palestine's special circumstances, the Council should designate an Arab delegate from Palestine to participate in its work until this country enjoy a actual independence."

"ARAB...

(Pr.Dig.201/4)

"ARAB STATES LACK POLITICAL COURTESY," Says Abdallah:

Al Fayha' quotes An Nahar to have published an article by Salim Abu Jamrah who reports the following statements made by King Abdallah in Amman to an Arab statesman who had visited him during the feast days:

"Tact does not justify that a Government be established against the wishes of a people, and we had rather not force a government upon the people of Palestine in their present condition, for we had decided to leave to the Palestinians themselves to determine the form of their government. If the purpose of forming this was to render it alone responsible for the liberation of Palestine this will mean a complete defeat on the part of the Arab states and will not agree with our decision to fight partition at all costs. If we are only authorized we guarantee the ability of our courageous army to solve alone the problem by force."

Speaking about the Greater Syria Plan, King Abdallah said:

"I afflict and oppose any policy aiming at attaching Lebanon to any other State, or at changing its political and geographical status and the form of its government. I respect the independence of Lebanon, as well as its status and frontiers."

Al Fayha' then comments in part:

"We do not blame King 'Abdallah for his previous, present and forthcoming statements nor for his plots and maneuvers in Palestine and outside Palestine, but we do blame those (Arab) statesmen who are still friendly to him although he is guiding the Arabs and Moslems to the hell of Anglo-Zionism. Abdallah's only capital is his claim to be the descendant of the Prophet, and we all know the falsehood of this claim. The sons of the Prophet have not left any descendants, and had they left any, they would not have left such a man who remains loyal to the Jews who are bombarding the Mosque of 'Umar."

US MINISTER VISITS KING ABDALLAH:

Al Fayha': News from Cairo reports that King Abdallah has yesterday received the U.S. Minister in Damascus, who afterwards visited the Transjordan Premier. Tawfiq Abu-al-Huda Pasha, has accompanied him in a journey to Jerusalem.

SECURITY...

(Pr.Dig.201/5)

SECURITY COUNCIL'S ORDER IGNORED:

Alef Ba': Two cables were yesterday received at the Chaillet Palace from Palestine. The first from the UN Observers informing the Security Council that despite its order of immediate cessation of fire, fighting in the Southern Front increased in tension, both parties having ignored the order issued to them. The Second from the Consular Committee protesting against the Jewish gangsters' attack on foreign consulates and causing serious damages in them.

TRUMAN OPPOSES:

Alef Ba': Voice of Israel has yesterday announced that President Truman has instructed Mr. Marshall to oppose Bernadotte's report at the UN General Assembly, as he himself does not consent to the attachment of the Negev to the Arab portion, which is not in agreement with the US policy and interests.

AIR RAID OVER CAIRO:

Alef Ba': At 8:30 p.m. yesterday evening, air-raid sirens were blown in Cairo following which lights were put off and broadcasts interrupted. Some sources claim that Zionist airplanes were repelled and no bombs could be released on the City.

IS THIS RESUMPTION OF FIGHTING?

Alef Ba': Our correspondent says that the Jews had violated the truce during the past ten days in the Liberation Army fronts and are still constantly violating it, but the Liberation Army had always repelled them with heavy losses

FORMIN BARAZI'S STATEMENT:

Alef Ba': On the occasion of the Security Council's order of immediate cessation of fire at the Negev and the Jewish refusal to cease fire, Formin Barazi made the following statement to our correspondent:

"Since the issue of the Security Council's decision on July 15, the Arab Governments have bound themselves with all the terms of the truce, and respected the Security Council's decision in its full terms. However, the Jews are still constantly violating the honor of the truce, and there

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Is no need to enumerate their unlimited deeds, which constitute a serious breach of the terms of the truce.

"The most outstanding and most terrible of their deeds was their assassination of the UN Mediator, their pre-meditated attack in the Egyptian front to establish a status quo, and their resumption of military action following the Security Council's latest order for immediate cessation of fire.

"It is time for the UN and the statesmen of the Great Powers to realize that the Jews overlook the international organization's decisions and neglect the principles of international law, and it is also time for the Security Council to proceed and take hard measures against the Jew's who disturb peace in the Middle East and consequently in the whole world."

In reply to a question, Formin Barazi said that the Foreign office was not officially notified of the resignation of Amir 'Adil Arslan from the Ministry of Hygiene and Social Affairs as well as from the Syrian delegation to UN.

## M I S C E L L A N E O U S

### WHY CRITICIZE FINANCE MINISTER:

Al Fayha': wrote a long article referring to the recent criticism of the Finance Minister as being responsible for the present situation of the Currency, Editor Tillawi asserts that the whole Syrian nation has participated in planning Syria's separation from the Franc bloc, and adds:

The Gentleman agreement was reached at in Egypt a few months ago at a time when the value of the Syrian pound was 20% higher than the value of the Lebanese pound, and it was stated then that the agreement was sympathetic, a political agreement, and had nothing to do with economics. We do not believe that the Minister of Finance favored the agreement which had rather a political aspect for Lebanon would dispose of all the Arab countries and especially Palestine in return for some powder, lipstick, a cup of wine, and the smuggling of a sack of potatoes to the Jews in Palestine.

We should not forget that since February last, all the local press had been supporting the Minister of Finance, and criticizing Lebanon for having agreed with France on the currency.

which...

which did not take this stand then. So, what happened now which caused this severe criticism of Haj Wahbi al-Hariri, and why should he be considered the sole person responsible for the policy, of separation from the Franc block.

Now that the Nations' policy is believed by some papers to have been a failure, and facts have proved the same, the Nation should either attach its currency to another state or find a remedy for this disease which was spread by the Lebanese merchants to serve their own interests. And if we suppose that the Finance Minister is solely responsible for this state of affairs, then why did the Syrians support him the last nine months, and confided in him?...

Although we agree with the other papers that the present condition of the currency cannot prevail for long, and as we do not at present find a solution to it, we should now leave politics aside and follow a purely economic policy in establishing customs with the Lebanon. It would not be fair to criticize Haj Wahbi al-Hariri for things which he had not done himself.

#### IRAQ SUPPLIES SYRIA WITH PETROLEUM:

Al Fayha': Our correspondent learns that the negotiation between the Syrian and Iraqi Government for the supply of petroleum have come to a successful end, and that the Iraqi Government has agreed to supply Syria with 20,000 tons of benzine, which are expected to reach Syria next week.

#### ROTARY SYSTEM OF AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE:

Barada: This paper criticized once again the Government for adopting the Rotary System of automatic telephone in Syria and for charging an English Company with the execution of the project.

The paper inquires from the Ministry of Public Works and Communications of any steps taken to avoid "the Catastrophe" and draws the attention of its readers that in its coming issue it will publish the report of the Chief Engineer of the PTT in England on the advantages, and the disadvantages of the System.

#### EXTENSION OF PIPELINES IN LIGHT AGAIN:

An Nasr: Among the many concerns of the responsible quarters is the application of the Anglo-Iranian Petroleum Company to extend pipelines across the Syrian territory in Banias

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on the Syrian Coast.

These quarters also hold that the IPC's claim of right to extend a parallel line with its present line cannot be recognized although this is stipulated in an article in its Agreement with Syria, which was not ratified by any constitutional Parliament. The Syrian Government conditions that the terminus of the parallel line be established on the Syrian Coast rather than Tripoli.

Convinced of the right of the Syrian claim, the IPC seems to have inclined towards opening of negotiations with the Government on this basis.

#### SCOTLAND YARD EXPERTS IN SYRIA:

An Nasr: The Security Department's mission to London composed of Akram Idlibi, Zahed Gridia, and Ibrahim Ghazi, have returned in Damascus after completing their training in Scotland Yard.

#### LEBANON CLAIMS OWNERSHIP OF TRIPOLI REFINERY:

Al Insha': It is apparent that Lebanon refuses to place the Tripoli Refinery under the administration of the Supreme Council of Common Interests, for it claims the sole ownership of the Refinery. The matter is believed to have been referred to the Lebanese Ministry of Justice with complete correspondence on the Refinery between the Government and the Allied authorities during the War.

#### GOOD NEWS IN HIGHLIGHT:

Al Kifah: Our reporter learns from the Ministry of National Economy that the petrol crisis has finally ended and that the petroleum companies will supply the country with its need of fuel oils. Owing to the difference of the prices of the Lebanese and the Syrian currencies, a slight increase in the price of gasoline and kerosene would be effected. Only 6 Piasters on 20-liter tin of benzine and 4 Piasters on Kerosene would be added.

#### NEWS IN HEADLINES:

An Nasr: IRAN HAS FALLEN IN THE AMERICAN TRAP. America Spends 650 Million Dollars In Iran On Technical Projects..



# AMERICAN LEGATION

★ DAMASCUS ★

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RESTRICTED -- (For Staff Use Only)

PRESS DIGEST No.202, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1948

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### NEWSPAPERS REVIEWED:

Alef Ba', Al Fayha', An Nasr, Al Kifah, Al Insha',  
Al Qabas, Al Ahyam, Al Alam, An Nazir, Ash-Shabab,  
And Ad-Duha.

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### MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

#### FINANCE MINISTER SUBJECT OF CRITICISMS AND DEFENSE:

Al Insha': This paper editorially emphasized today that the Finance Minister is the only person responsible for the failure of financial and currency policies, and questioned:

"If the Finance Minister is not himself responsible for this deterioration in our financial situation, then who else is responsible for it? And whom else shall we address on this subject other than Wahbi al-Hariri, the so-called innocent man.

"This innocent man did not hesitate one instant in dealing with his private commercial business which is at present outstanding. Why has he neglected the affairs of the

State....

(Pr.Dig.202/2)

State and its currency? This is the reason why the papers have criticized him after they had given him unlimited support."

Al Fayha' Editor Tillawi continues today the series of his articles in defence of Finance Minister Wahbi al-Hariri. Contradicting Al Insha' for its campaign of criticism against Hariri, Tillawi remarks that the Minister did all he could to reinforce the Syrian currency, and as a point of fact, he submitted three months ago a project of a law to the Council of Ministers for the nationalization of the bank of issue, which is the first step towards reinforcing the currency. However, Tillawi argues, this project is still pending in the cabinet. "Hariri is not alone responsible for the financial policy of the country, since the responsibility is shared by the whole population, the deputies, the press, and the other cabinet ministers." the Editor concludes.

#### SITUATION OF PETROLEUM COMPANIES:

An Nasr published an article quoting the replies of the Minister of Public Works to the press on the situation of the Petroleum Companies.

The Minister told pressmen that some Parliamentary committees have terminated their studies of the legal status of the concessionary companies in Syria, as well as the studies concerning the water and electric supply. They will next week report to Government which will plan its policy accordingly.

As to the technical studies by the Anglo-Iranian Company, the minister said that it had considered the possibilities of stretching pipelines through Syrian lands to the Mediterranean. The Company is now completing its studies in Beirut, and should it decide to stretch the pipelines through Syria we shall enter in negotiations, otherwise we are not bound to it.

As to the IPC, this Company had demanded to expropriate some land for extending another line not all in parallel to its first line, but we have refused this demand in execution of our policy of liquidating the concessions granted in Syria to foreign companies.

As to the SFC, we are sending an inspector every fortnight to inquire into excavation and technical works of the Company, and it can now be said that the Company has given up further excavation in the well which it had drilled in 'Ifrin Village, and is now preparing for the drilling of petroleum wells in the Jazira.



(Pr.Dig.202/3)

EDUCATIONAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN SYRIA AND SPAIN:

The Spanish Chargé d'Affaires has suggested to Ibrahim al-Ustuwani, Director of Political Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the opening of talks with a view of concluding an educational agreement between Spain and the Arab countries. Ibrahim al-Ustuwani has declared that the Cabinet has forwarded this suggestion to the proper authorities for consideration and reply.

COMMUNISM IN HOMS:

An Nasr: Our correspondent learnt that there grew a feeling of hatred among the inhabitants of Homs against the Communist Party, which used previously to be one of the strong parties in Homs.

It was also learnt that this feeling of hatred grew among the inhabitants as a result of anti-communist propaganda spread by few tens of Cherkas (Caucasians) residing in the villages of Homs who were previously employees in the German Army, imprisoned by the Soviet forces during the war, but succeeded to escape to Syria via Turkey and Iran. Those escapees are reporting incidents and information on the bad condition of living of the population in the Soviet Union.

Our correspondent also learnt that a full report in this respect had been submitted to the Gendarmerie HQ from the Muhafazat of Homs.

SUSPENSION OF NEWSPAPER:

An Nasr: Our reporter states that a decree has been prepared suspending Al Fayha'. We are sorry for this disaster that befalls Al Fayha' and take the opportunity to protest against suspension of papers for any reason whatsoever. (It is believed that this paper was suspended for publishing an article insulting the person of King Abdallah; see Pr.Dig.201/4).

ANTI-COMMUNIST PROPAGANDAS:

An Nasr; published the report of the American authorities on the subject of the DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNIST IDEOLOGY IN VARIOUS NEAR EASTERN COUNTRIES. The source of this article is the News Bulletin published daily by the United States Information Service.

WAS IT...

(Pr.D1g.202/4)

WAS IT AN AIR RAID?:

An Nasr: At 11:50 p.m. yesterday, lights were put off in the Capital but sirens were not blown. The inhabitants believed that an air-raid over Damascus was contemplated, but lights were switched on again at 12:24 a.m. No reasons have been known for the black-out.

SYRO-LEBANESE FINANCIAL TALKS:

An Nasr: The Lebanese Party in the Syro-Lebanese talks has promised to submit new proposals, which will be the new basis for talks on the import policy of the two countries. These proposals were expected to be submitted two days ago, but our correspondent learnt that the Lebanese Government has not yet completed the proposals which they promised to deliver to the Syrian Party within 48 hours. The Lebanese press yesterday pointed out that conditions are drifting towards optimism, and the papers which were previously criticizing Syria have changed their tone. The Lebanese Acting Premier has declared that the two countries will shortly arrive to an agreement, and that the points of disagreement were not so serious as to mean separation. The Acting Premier added that the policy of restricted import was acceptable, but there grew some disagreement on whether to put it into force all at once or gradually.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS  
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WHY HESITATE?- RESUMPTION OF FIGHTING URGED:

An Nasr: Editor Wadi' Sidawi expressed his painful astonishment at Azzam Pasha's latest statement to the effect that the Arabs possess enough arms and ammunitions to defeat the Jews. He argues that if Azzam Pasha's statement is true, then why are the Arabs hesitating to use their sufficient force to defend their countries and the Holy Land from Jewish aggression? Why do not they wipe out the Zionists by force, which is the only way to liberate Palestine. Why have they been standing still on all the other fronts while the Jews have launched a ten-day attack on the Egyptian Army with a view of occupying the Negev? All the Arab States, the writer argues, are well aware that the Palestine question cannot be possibly solved in international bodies, so why are they hesitating to order their armies in Palestine to open fire either in sympathy with the Egyptian army or in executing the liberation plans thus giving no chance to the Jews to attack one Arab Army at a time?

(Pr.Dig.202/5)

Addressing the Chiefs of Arab States, responsible leaders in Arab countries, and Secretary General of the Arab League, the writer says: Leave aside all fear of any decision of the Security Council against you and it would not dare to take such a decision- if you show off your strength-, stop all speeches and declarations and come to work. Order the Arab armies to open fire and wage it a collective war mobilizing all your resources, for this is a war of life and death. The Arabs shall live, with God's permission, if they unify their resources to put an end to all danger.

LET US ENRAGE LIKE LION! - Editorial-

Alef Ba': Accusing the Arabs of disrespecting the Fact of League of Arab Nations which stipulated that any armed aggression on any of the countries would be repelled, this paper writes in part:

Seven days have elapsed and the Egyptian forces are alone taking the stand of defending the nobility and honor of the Arab nations. We frankly address the Arabs that public opinion cannot any more tolerate any hesitation to repel these aggressions. Arab states form a unity of force assuming the responsibility of leading Arabs to their aspirations.

Evidently the Jewish aggression on the Arab forces individually and with wicked tricky means is intended to exhaust the Arab forces one after the other and pierce holes thru their lines, relying on the Security Council's toleration and on the Arabs attachment to the Council's order of cease fire, thus preparing for the realization of Zionist evil and criminal dreams.

THOSE WHO ACCEPTED THE FIRST TRUCE GAVE UP VICTORY:

Al Qabas: Under this heading Editor Najib al-Rayis writes in part:

Following the disputes which crept into the Arab leaders, Chiefs and Commanders, (following the formation of the Palestine Gov't) the Arab states have retreated continuously in front of Jewish aggression, in politics and in battle fields. They were conquerers, but now turned to protestors filling the UN and SC circles with complaints on the Jews and their aggression.

Today the Chiefs, leaders and members of these Governments and the Arab League are paying the price of the first truce

(Pr.Dig.202/6)

when by accepting it, they gave up the victory which they had attained militarily thus permitting the Jews within few months to store the arms and train the fighters and acquire planes.

TURN THE REFUGEES INTO NATIONAL PRODUCERS:

Al Qabas: Under this heading Al Qabas strongly urges the Government, which is spending monthly more than half a million Syrian Pounds on the subsistence and the sheltering of the refugees to establish small pattern villages and establishments in the Muhafazate of Homs, Hama, Euphrates, and Jazireh and help them to exploit the lands and become valuable producers.

If the Syrian Government is so optimistic as to believe that the Arab forces can easily wipe out the Jews within a short time, this would not prevent it to grant a number of these refugees lands to remain beneficent producers in the country. Continuous expenditures on these refugees, the paper believes, is futile.

P A L E S T I N E

OFFICIAL DEFENSE COMMUNIQUE:

All Papers: We have received the following communique from the Syrian Ministry of Defense:

"First: At midnight of October 19-20, while one of our detachments was performing a mission of communication between two posts situated within the Syrian Army area, it clashed with an enemy patrol and exchanged fire with it. The enemy retreated leaving behind various cartridges cases and a trailer. One of our soldiers was hit slightly. A UN Observer has ascertained of these events after a detailed enquiry on the spot.

"Second: In the evening of October 20-21, 1948, an enemy patrol crossed the restricted area in the northern sector, attacked An Nukhaylah Village and exchanged machine gun fire for forty minutes with our frontal lines. The enemy also threw mortar bombs on our positions in the Samakh area.

"It is indicated from the enemy's act of violation of the truce terms that he is planning an attack on the Syrian

front....

front. Before such a situation, the Syrian command finds itself compelled to take the necessary measures to silence the positions of the enemy near our lands and stop them from continual attack on our lines."

#### ARSLAN'S RESIGNATION:

An Naer: Semi-Official political circles believe that the resignation of Amir 'Adil Arslan from the Syrian delegation to UN came as a result of the overlooking by Jews of the UN and SC's decisions, the two organizations which are partial and work only for the benefit of the Jews, and in spite of all this, the Arab armies have not moved to help the Egyptian army considering Palestine a one and undivided front.

The Prime Minister yesterday called on the Minister of Foreign Affairs where he received the Sa'udi Arabian Minister, Fu'ad Bey Hamzah, with whom he afterwards proceeded in the company of the Secretary General of the Prime Ministry to (Censorship) and returned to Damascus before evening.

#### FURTHER JEWISH ATTACKS ON LIBERATION FORCES:

Alef Ba': News from the Liberation Army centers indicate that the Jews have launched an attack for the second time yesterday on the Liberation Army centers. They were repelled with heavy losses. In the first attack the Jews lost 50 killed and several wounded and in the second they lost about 35 killed and 70 wounded.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NEWS (CONTD...)

##### Dr. 'AJLANI IN LONDON:

Alef Ba': Dr. Munir 'Ajlan, the Syrian Minister of Public Instruction who is on a visit to London, paid a visit to the British Minister of Instruction Mr. George Tomlison and discussed with him the various difficulties which the Syrian students are encountering in the British Institutions.

The Syrian Minister will proceed to France and spend another week in Paris.

##### LAW STUDENTS LIMITED:

Alef Ba': A decision passed by the Dean of the Faculty of

Law...

(Pr.Dig.202/8)

Law has limited the number of the Law Students to be accepted in the First Class at 500 only. Further registration of students would be forbidden, and Gov't officials shall not be permitted to enrol in the Faculty.

INCREASE OF CIVIL SERVANTS RETIREMENT REDUCTIONS:

Al Aiyam: The 7.5% reduction for retirement from the Salaries of the Civil Servants will believably be increased to 10.5% . The Government is also thinking of imposing other taxations; taxes on theaters, and Cinemas will be increased 50%. Taxes on heritage, municipal taxes and taxes on combustibles will also be imposed.

FRANCO-SYRIAN MONETARY AGREEMENT:

Al Qabas: "Beirut" is quoted as having reported that in its three-hour meeting held yesterday in Damascus the Syrian Council of Ministers have discussed and principally agreed upon the draft of the Franco-Syrian Monetary Agreement.

This news could not be confirmed nor commented upon by the competent authorities.

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2007/03/08 : CIA-RDP83-00415R001500060010-7

# DAILY REVIEW OF THE ARABIC PRESS



For Distribution to U.S. Embassy Personnel only.

EMBASSY OF THE U.S.A., CAIRO-EGYPT.

## MORNING PAPERS.

TUESDAY November 2nd, 1948.

### Arab Affairs.

Interesting article by Rose El Yussef.

Under the headline: "The Common interest only", Rose El Yussef, the pro-Government weekly, writes: "The champions of Arabism seem to have forgotten an elementary fact, namely that the Arab League is called thus figuratively speaking only. Not all the members of this League are Arabs by any means. The Egyptians are Pharaonic. The Lebanese and Syrians are Phoenicians. The Iraqis are Assyrians. The Yemenites are Hadariyum or descendants of Beni Hameer. The Palestinians are Canaanites.

"It cannot be said that the members of the Arab League are bound together by a common language. A common language was never a basis on which treaties or leagues are founded. England and Ireland speak the same language and yet they are political opponents. Arabic itself is the mother tongue of the majority of Palestine's Jews.

"It also cannot be said that the members of the Arab League are bound together by the Islamic religion, for one of the member states is Christian.

"The only basis on which the Arab League was founded is "the common interests". No more, no less. But do the Arab countries have common or conflicting interests? Or rather, do they have a common interest in helping Palestine and liberating it from the Jews? Egypt is directly interested in the strife between the Arabs and Jews in Palestine. The establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine would expose Egypt to the danger of Zionist invasion of its territory proper. But do Iraq, Transjordan, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, and Saudi Arabia fear the same danger? This is the question.

"If the reply is in the negative, if Transjordan and Iraq feel that they have nothing to fear from the Zionists in the future, if Saudi Arabia feels that it can depend for its safety on its income from oil only, and if Lebanon depends on its safety on the statements made by Bishop Mubarak, then Egypt should not expect any aid from them and should shoulder the whole burden alone. If, however, the reply is in the positive, and we believe it is, then we have every right to ask the Arab countries to join us in the fight and to blame them if they do not rally to our support".

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TUESDAY November 2nd, 1948.

The Arab League Council meets and adjourns without result.

The Arabic press reports that the Arab League Council held another meeting yesterday November 1st without passing any resolutions. Azzam Pasha did not attend the meeting because of illness, while Nokrashi Pasha did not attend on excuse of being busy.

Afghanistan asks Egypt to mediate between it and Iran.

Al Misri reports that Al Sayed Sadok Al Mojadadi, the Afghanistani Minister in Egypt called yesterday Nov. 1st on Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Ibrahim Dissuki Abaza Pasha to communicate to him his country's desire that Egypt may join the committee which is to mediate between Iran and Afghanistan to settle the Halamand river dispute between them.

Al Misri goes on to say that America has already proposed the formation of a mediation committee to comprise American, Canadian, and Mexican experts.

"No talks between Egypt and the U.S.A.".

Under the above heading, Al Misri writes: "We asked a well-informed source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs if the reports circulated by some newsagencies to the effect that Egypt's Ambassador to Washington Kamel Abdul Raheem Bey was engaged at present in important political talks with American officials, were true. The Egyptian source in question said that the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs had not yet received from the Egyptian Embassy in Washington any news which would indicate that such talks were taking place.

"The same source added that time is not ripe for political talks between the two countries, and that Egypt was awaiting the results of the American Presidential elections before entering into such discussions. At any rate, said the source, it was unlikely that the matter would even be considered before January 1949 when the new American President, be he Mr Truman or Mr Dewey, assumes his duties officially".

"The Arabs and the American elections".

Under the above heading, Al Misri prints an editorial in which it says that the foreign programs of the Republican and Democratic parties in the U.S.A. were the same and that the victory of Mr Dewey would not change America's attitude towards the Palestinian question.

"It is expected, however", writes Al Misri, "that after the elections America's Palestine policy would be somewhat moderate. But we must not expect the Americans to see the justice of our demands or change their pro-partition policy except in one case, namely the use of force by the Arabs".-----



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TUESDAY November 2nd, 1948.

### The political situation in Iraq.

Under the headline: "Why Al Pachachi did not attend the Amman Conference", Rose El Yussuf writes: "On September 26th, 1948, Al Sayed Sadok Al Bassam, the Iraqi Defence Minister, made a statement to the effect that Iraq should sever her relations with England and America and ally herself to the devil. The word 'devil' was interpreted in Baghdad as meaning Russia, and so the Minister had to resign from the Cabinet. A month and half later, Arab circles were surprised to see Shaker Al Wadi appointed Minister of Defence in Bassam's place, especially when the new Minister was a member of the delegation which negotiated the Portsmouth treaty project.

"It was noticed at the Amman conference that Prime Minister Al Pachachi was not present at the conference. It is said that the Iraqi Premier did not attend because he was deliberately ignored by King Abdullah who invited the Regent alone to attend the conference. The Regent took the new Iraqi Defence Minister with him to Amman and Al Pachachi was left behind. This gave rise to a Cabinet crisis which can only end either in Al Pachachi's resignation, or in the success of Nuri Al Said's manoeuvres".

### Libyan Affairs.

A statement by Bashir Al Saadawi.

The Arabic press quotes Al Sayed Basheer Al Saadawi, President of the Libyan "party" known as "the body for Libya's liberation", as saying that the peoples of Libya are agreed that Libya should become united and independent.

Asked if it was true that the intelligentsia in Libya favoured a trusteeship regime, Al Saadawi replied that it was untrue and that the whole of Libya clamoured for independence under Al Sanoussi's reign.

### The Sudan Affairs.

With the absence of news concerning the meeting of the Arab League Council, Nahas Pasha's proposed trip to the Sudan is treated as top story of the day.

The press reports this morning November 2nd that the Sudan Agent in Cairo has told Secretary General of the Wafd party Serag Eldine Pasha that the Sudan Government would allow Nahas Pasha and his team to visit the Sudan on certain conditions, namely that the Wafdist visitors should apply for visas in the normal way, that at least two men should be dropped from the party which is visiting the Sudan (Nahas Pasha was to be accompanied by an ex convict who served a life sentence for the murder of several British officials, by a pro-communist writer, and by a journalist who was jailed by Nokrashi Pasha several times in the past for writing subversive articles), and that Nahas Pasha should

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TUESDAY November 2nd, 1948.

promise not to hold political meetings at Khartoum.

The Sudan agent pointed out to the Pasha that if he were allowed to hold political meetings in Khartoum, the supporters of Al Mahdi may clash with the supporters of Morghani and he himself may then be held responsible for the bloodshed.

The Wafd's Secretary replied that the Wafd party rejected these conditions and that in its opinion Egypt and the Sudan were but one country.

Rose El Yussuf publishes an interesting report to the effect that Naguib Al Hilali Pasha, prominent member of the Wafd Executive, made a statement to the effect that the Wafd planned the trip in the hope that the British would refuse it permission to visit the Sudan. The Wafd wanted to use the story for propaganda purposes, said the Pasha, and it would have been rather embarrassing to the party if the British agreed to let Nahas Pasha and his team go to the Sudan unconditionally.

#### Important political developments in the Sudan.

Al Misri reports that the Unionist parties of the Sudan (the small parties which favour unity with Egypt) have left the Conference party with which they were allied.

Al Ahram reports that Abdul Rahman Al Mahdi Pasha, the important religious and Political leader in the Sudan, addressed group of religious leaders, and advised them that the Sudan should become independent of Egypt and that they should support the Legislative Assembly which is considered to be the first step towards freedom and independence.

Al Ahram also publishes a report which is of special interest to stamp collectors. It says that the Postal Administration in the Sudan have issued stamps (10 and 5 millicemes) to commemorate the opening of the 1st Sudanese Legislative Assembly on December 2nd, 1948. The two stamps would be sent to any person outside the Sudan against the payment of 65 mils.

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The Companies law to be enforced on  
November 4th. The position of the Suez  
Canal Company.

The press says that the Companies which fail to comply with the provisions of the companies law before November 4th, 1948 will be prosecuted. So far only ten companies have not complied with this law. There are conflicting reports in this morning's press concerning the position of the Suez Canal Company. Some papers say that the company which has so far held the view that it should be exempted from this law, will be prosecuted on November 4th. Other papers say that it will not.

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## MORNING PAPERS

SATURDAY October 30th, 1948.

The Sudan Affairs.  
Egypt's leading newspaper admits that all the Sudanese disapprove of Egypt's attitude towards the Legislative Assembly. Other important articles.

The Egyptian press is showing keen interest in the affairs of the Sudan. Al Misri, Egypt's leading newspaper and official Wafdist organ which has been agitating for sometime against the Sudanisation project introduced by the Sudan government as a means of enabling the Sudanese to enjoy self rule, to-day (October 30th) makes two very interesting statements concerning the situation in the Sudan.

The story is written by the daily's Khartoum correspondent and reads as follows: "It is no longer a secret that the Sudanese Unionist parties (meaning the parties which favour unity with Egypt) are at present extremely annoyed at the attitude adopted by Egypt towards the Legislative Assembly especially when it has become clear that the Assembly will be established despite the opposition of the parties.

"The percentage of the electorate who will go to the polls may be nil in the Northern regions of the Sudan but there can be no doubt that the percentage is very high indeed in Central and Western Sudan.

"These facts had better be born in mind by the Egyptians who are interested in the Sudan question so that they may base their policy on correct information".

The Wafd does not wish the Sudan to be united to Egypt while the present Egyptian government is in power.

Al Assas of October 29th published an editorial which was meant to ridicule the Wafdist leader Nahas Pasha for his forthcoming trip to the Sudan. The daily which is considered to be the official mouthpiece of Mokhrashi Pasha asked how could Nahas Pasha urge the Sudanese to clamour for unity with Egypt and have the same constitution and

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SATURDAY October 30th, 1948

and parliament as the Egyptians when he is claiming continuously that the Egyptian constitution is not respected and that the present Egyptian parliament does not represent the Egyptians seeing that the last elections were manipulated.

Sawt Al Umma, the Wafdist organ, publishes an editorial in answer to Al Assas' argument, in which it says: "We the Wafdists do not ask the Sudanese to be ruled by the Egyptian Constitution, the provisions of which are not respected, or by the present rotten Egyptian government which has killed and buried freedom. We therefore call upon the Sudanese to join us in our struggle to have a respected Egyptian constitution and good government".

"It must be admitted that the situation in Egypt does not encourage the Sudanese to ask for unity with Egypt or to be ruled by the present Egyptian government".-----

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"Britain and America form a board at Fayod which includes Turkey, Greece, and Iraq, but not Egypt".

Under the above heading, Al Misri writes: "We published a story recently to the effect that the American and British military Commanders were at present busy studying the plans concerning the establishment of a joint Anglo-American base at Fayod. Our reporters have made extensive inquiries and come to the conclusion that the story is very true. We now publish fresh news concerning this important matter.

"It is now known that a senior American officer has visited the Fayod Zone to confer with the G.O.C. British troops in that area. They discussed the secret details concerning this joint base which is meant to be used in future for the strengthening of the defences in the Middle East of the armed forces of America, Britain, and their allies so that they may successfully stand in the face of Russian danger.

"The plans concerning this joint base are founded on the following bases:

- 1 - The Defence of the Middle East will cover a line which starts from Turkey in the North and stretches to Tripoli and Libya in the West and Iraq in the East. Fayod is considered as a front base.
- 2 - The Sudan will be considered the second base after Fayod. Strong air bases will be established at Khartoum.
- 3 - The third base will be established in East Africa. It is understood that the construction of this base is nearly completed.
- 4 - The industries and armed forces of the Union of South Africa will support these bases.

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"Seeing that the Americans have failed in getting what they wanted from France concerning the establishment of military bases at Algiers and Morocco, they convinced themselves that Fayod is the best practical base in which the High Command for the military operations may be established.

"As the result of the Anglo-American talks which took place at Fayod, it was decided that the British and American Commands should proceed to form a joint military board which would include their officers who occupy the posts of military Attachés and which would be supported by a big body from their intelligence corps.

"The nucleus of this board is at present located in Cairo in the shape of the Military, Naval, and Air Attachés. Until the formation of this board is completed, it is not expected that the American officers will go to Fayod. But they will do so later.

"The establishment of a board to comprise all the diplomatic representatives of the countries whose armed forces will be put under the joint High Command at Fayod, is also being considered. The countries in question are America, Britain, Cyprus, Turkey, Greece, and Iraq. The aim of this board is to facilitate the communication of the instructions of Fayod by means of the diplomatic representatives to their respective countries.

"So far, Egypt's name and her possible participation in the board have not been mentioned in connection with the formation of this latter board. It is believed that the reason for this is Egypt's attitude (which she refuses to change) towards the question of the presence of foreign troops in her territory and towards the 1936 treaty.

"Although the Egyptian government knows all the details concerning these Anglo-American activities, it has refrained from commenting on them or interfering in anyway whatsoever".

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The Palestinian situation,  
and stories pertaining to the  
Arab-Jewish strife.

Akhbar El Yom reports that Regent Abdulilah of Iraq, Syria's President Shukry Al Kawtly, and Lebanon's President Dishara Al Khouri have decided to ask the other Arab monarchs to meet in Cairo to discuss the Palestinian situation. The weekly comments on the story by saying: "The Egyptian authorities are of the opinion that the meetings which took place recently made things very clear. Arab public opinion expects deeds and not statements".

Akhbar El Yom's New York correspondent writes: "I learned that the American War and Navy Departments have intimated their desire that two gentlemen representing them may go to the Egyptian front in Palestine to study the

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situation there. This request will be communicated to Nokrash Pasha.

The same weekly reports that Afghanistan has formally recognized the All-Palestine Arab government and that Pakistan will follow suit.

Akhbar El Yom also publishes a cartoon showing President Truman, Mr Stalin, and John Bull as monkeys sitting in the position of the three famous see no evil, speak no evil, and hear no evil monkeys. The cartoon is headlined: "The three monkeys of the Security Council. I hear no Jewish aggression on Egypt, I see no Jewish aggression on Egypt, I speak of no Jewish aggression on Egypt".

Under the headline: "One step forward", Akhbar El Yom writes: "We are separated from victory by one step only. Victory will be ours if all the Arab armies attack in body. The world press alleges that the Arab armies do not wish to fight and that the Egyptian army bears the burden alone. It is terrible that people should have victory within their grasp and then retreat.

Akhbar El Yom consures Amman and Baghdad.

Under the headline "Frank words addressed to Amman and Baghdad", Mohamed Al Tab'i, the well-known journalist, writes in Akhbar El Yom: "I am sick and tired of listening to news about Palestine, the Arabs of Palestine, Arabism, or anything connected with Palestine. I am sick and tired of hearing that King Abdallah is a loyal friend and that Baghdad, Damascus, Amman, Beirut, and Al Riad are agreed that the Palestinian problem can only be solved with the sword. I had enough of these senseless statements. The Jews persist in violating the truce and the Arabs are doing nothing.

"The Egyptians never claimed to be the descendants of Hashim or Koraish (Koraish is the Arab tribe to which the prophet Mohamed belonged). Yet Egypt did and is still doing for Palestine more than the people who boast of being descendants of the tribe of Koraish. Egypt is shouldering the whole burden alone consoled by the fact that she is defending a just cause.

"But Egypt is not expected to be the sole defender of Arabism. Palestine is not, cannot, be the sole concern of Egypt. If the defence of Palestine were the sole responsibility of Egypt, then what is the good of the Arab League? And why have the Arab armies entered Palestine, and what is the good of the conferences which were held? Did Amman, Baghdad, and Damascus, not know when they invaded Palestine that they were going to face the Zionists who are supported by Russia and America? If they took this fact into consideration and entered Palestine with their eyes open, then why do they stand in the battlefield to-day as if they were scarecrows? Are they afraid of the Security Council of which no country in the world is afraid, which has no army of its own, and which failed to muster an army of a thousandmen to send

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SATURDAY October 30th, 1948.

to Jerusalem?

"Amman, Baghdad, and the other Arab countries are only pretending to be afraid of the Security Council because it suits them to be afraid of it.

"The Egyptian army is alone in the battlefield giving the Jews two blows for each blow it receives. But how long will this state of affairs last? Rumours fill the country, and no wonder! There are 80,000 Jews in the country on whom there is no control. The best antidote to rumours is frankness. Churchill was never accused of being a defeatist when he told his country 'I have nothing to promise you but blood, sweat, and tears'. The government which hides the facts from its people shows that it has no faith in their strength. The Egyptians are strong, thank God, and they support their government in its struggle."

"An economic fifth column".

Under the above heading, Akhbar El Yom publishes a short article in which it accuses the Jews of Egypt of conspiring with Britain to bring down the prices of Egyptian cotton. The weekly does not say how it arrived at this conclusion, but it urges the government to "use the weapon of martial law mercilessly to protect the country's wealth".

The plight of the Iraqi Jews.

Akhbar El Yom's Paris correspondent reports that the United Nations are expected to take action with regard to the heavy sentences passed on the Iraqi Jews who were accused of collaboration with the Zionists of Palestine. The correspondent says that the Iraqi government has confiscated \$ 80,000,000 belonging to its Jewish nationals and that Jewish property in Iraq is valued at \$ 1200,000,000. The Grand Rabbi of Iraq and his son were recently arrested on a charge of agitating against the Iraqi government during a ceremony at the Baghdad Synagogue, says the writer.

The Palestine debate at the Security Council. Unfavourable reaction by the Arabic Press.

The news concerning the postponement by the Security Council of the Anglo-Chinese Negot proposal is received with indignation by the Arab press. Al Misri and Al Kutla print editorials in which they strongly condemn the decision of the Security Council to set up a sub-committee to elaborate the Anglo-Chinese proposal, and in which they maintain that the Council has proved itself incapable of handling the Palestine problem.

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